

To the Dickinson Student Body,

My name is Nadia Shahab Diaz, and I am running to be an Academic Programming and Standards Committee (APSC) Senator for the 2018-2019 academic year. This year, I served as a First-Year Senator, participating primarily in Student Senate meetings, my 2021 Class Council, and the Academic Initiative Committee.

APSC is an All-College Committee, encompassing Dickinson's ideal of shared governance by including elected student representatives in overseeing certain aspects of the College's operations. APSC Senators act as the sole student representatives on matters associated with academic programming, from the curriculum to academic standards to department evaluations (Student Senate Elections Packet, 2018).

As an APSC Senator, I hope to continue pushing for the elimination or revision of the gym credit. As a student community, I am sure that we are aware of the efforts that could have been made by the faculty to better understand the proposal for revising the gym credit that APSC has been working on for the past few years. Although this year's faculty decision was disappointing, rather than let that initiative die, I want to help continue it. In an institution that claims to value shared governance, if the faculty keep choosing to keep the gym credit or to leave it unchanged, that decision should at least be made under the grounds of understanding the points and perspective of APSC's proposal.

Additionally, I would like to learn more about the decision process when it comes to determining curriculum and academic standards. I would like to see if the system that assigns priorities to students during course selection can be amended, so that students on the pre-health track can get all of their required courses done before they must take the MCAT, so that students whose graduate schools require certain courses can get into those necessary classes; I have seen too many students worry about their entire schedule plan for medical school or seniors struggle to get into a necessary statistics class for graduate school simply because the system does not prioritize them. I would like to be a listening ear to students with ideas and complaints and solutions for academic programming and standards, and a voice for them on the Committee.

I believe that my experiences on Student Senate this year makes me a qualified candidate for APSC Senator. As a member of the Academic Initiatives Committee, I was able to contribute ideas, perspectives, and questions to how student tutoring on campus functions, to the co-curricular requirements accompanying courses that students are unaware of until classes begin, etc. As a First-Year Senator, I showed myself to be organized and hardworking in the planning and execution of class events, as well as a communicative and dependable member of my class council. These experiences demonstrate skills that I believe have made me a better representative leader for the student body, and that I would contribute to APSC next year.

Thank you for your consideration.
Nadia Shahab Diaz '21